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Booklet

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I prefer Fridays because I can relax and have fun knowing that the next day I can enjoy the weekend.

A1 - A2

1. *What is your favourite day of the week?*

I prefer Fridays. On Friday afternoon or evening, you can relax and have fun because you know the next day you can sleep later than usual since it is Saturday. You don't have to worry about homework or any other tasks. The weekend is here and you can take a break and enjoy yourself!

I would like to visit Greece because it's a place where you can have a great time: the people are welcoming, the beaches aren't crowded, and the water is clear, the food is delicious and there are plenty of activities to keep you busy, such as swimming, water sports, beach volleyball, themed parties and courses for those who want to learn Greek or crafts.

B1

2. *Describe a place that you would like to visit.*

I would very much like to go to Greece! I have never been there, but all my friends who have spent their holidays in Greece tell me that it is a wonderful place and you will definitely have a great time there. The people are welcoming and do their best to make your stay in their country unforgettable. They are very friendly with the tourists and try to help whenever they can. The sandy beaches aren't as crowded as those in Romania. You have enough space to lie in the sun and enjoy the sand, the crystal clear water and the joyful summer atmosphere. There are plenty of activities to keep you busy - swimming, water sports, beach volleyball, themed parties and all sorts of courses for those who want to learn Greek or crafts. I heard that the food is delicious, so you mustn't miss the Greek specialities while you are on holiday! I really want to taste their traditional dishes such as baked lamb with potatoes, moussaka and souvlaki.

In conclusion, Greece is a wonderful destination and full of possibilities, and I hope to visit this country very soon and to explore and discover its beauties on my own.

3. Give your opinion of the following: *Being a grown-up isn't half as much fun as growing up.*

Many teenagers want to become grown-ups as soon as possible, thinking their lives will be more enjoyable than they are at the present. In my opinion, the whole process of reaching adulthood is far more rewarding than actually being a "grown-up".

Becoming an adult is a journey that helps us understand who we really are. Throughout the journey, we learn to become independent, to count less and less on our parents' support, to assume responsibility. Although this seems really scary at first, all the obstacles that stand in our way make us stronger and show us our strengths and our weaknesses.

Growing up teaches us lessons that will be very useful later in life. We realise that it's important to start a career, to take care of the people we care for, to make choices and to accept the consequences, to plan for the future. Even if the path isn't always smooth and easy, we deal with the situation while trying to enjoy ourselves as much as possible.

To sum up, being a "grown-up" is the final destination of a road we all have to take. Some of us are more successful than others, but I believe that what really matters is the journey with its ups and downs, rather than the destination.

B2

The whole process of reaching adulthood is more rewarding than actually being a "grown-up".

Throughout the growing up journey, we learn to become independent, count less on our parents' support, assume responsibility.

Growing up teaches us useful lessons in life: start a career, take care of the people we care for and plan for the future.

What really matters is the journey with its ups and downs, rather than the destination.

I enjoy going to the park with my friends to play sports, going to the mall to watch a film or eat pizza, or going to parties and clubs to dance and listen to music.

A1-A2

1. How do you spend your free time?

I really enjoy hanging out with my friends. We usually go to the park where we sit on a bench and talk, but we can also be very active and go rollerblading, play badminton or ride our bikes. Sometimes we go to the mall to watch a film, do some shopping or eat at our favourite pizza place. Also, from time to time we go to parties or clubs. We all love dancing and listening to music, there's no better place to do this than at a party.

B1

2. Describe a friend of yours.

I have known Danny since we were in the first grade.

I have known Danny since we were in the first grade. Although he's grown up a lot lately, he is still the same funny and easy-going buddy I met years ago. Tall, slim and well-built he definitely charms all the girls in our high school. His smoky eyes and dark hair make him look mysterious and distant. But once you get to know him better you realise that he is the most trustworthy and reliable person in the world. This is his greatest gift. He is always there to help and support you when you need someone the most. I remember that in the 10th grade I had real troubles with Maths and I was afraid that I wouldn't pass that class because of my poor marks. He didn't abandon me; we studied together and with his help I got through this difficult time. His humor and optimism make people around him feel good. In fact, his jokes are so funny that you can't stop laughing once you hear him. He plays the guitar and it's always a pleasure to listen to his songs. He wants to become a famous guitarist one day and I'm sure he will succeed because he is so ambitious and hard-working.

He is tall, slim and well-built. His smoky eyes and dark hair make him look mysterious and distant, but he is the most trustworthy and reliable person.

His humor and optimism make people around him feel good.

**3. Give your opinion of the following statement:
*Happiness is wanting what you have, not having
what you want.***

Although living conditions have improved dramatically, more and more people are unhappy with their lives. They focus on material things, they want money, success, fame, power, the latest gadget or the fastest car and they disregard what they already have. In my opinion, we can only be happy when we feel grateful for the positive things in our lives.

First of all, being optimistic and working to achieve the things that we want so much will finally pay off. We need to find a balance and to set goals for ourselves without trying to keep up with the others and turning everything into a fierce competition. Once we know our weaknesses and strengths and we do our best to become better with every step we take, there is nothing to stop us from getting to where we want to be.

Secondly, people that are content with their lives have more energy and enthusiasm to reach the targets they have set for themselves. A realistic approach leads to better results than frustration, envy or jealousy. When we only see the half-empty glass and we concentrate on the things that we don't have, we do nothing but put obstacles in our way to fulfillment and happiness.

All things considered, happiness is a state of mind and it's our duty to be true to ourselves, to appreciate the things and most importantly the people around us and to remember there are other people less fortunate than we are. If we look at the world from the right angle, we will see how fortunate we are and how many reasons we can find to be satisfied with what we have.

B2

We can only be happy when we feel grateful for the positive things in our lives.

We need to find a balance and to set goals for ourselves without turning everything into a competition.

People that are content with their lives have more energy and enthusiasm to reach the targets they have set for themselves.

Happiness is a state of mind and it's our duty to be true to ourselves, to appreciate the things and the people around us.

Avatar is one of the films that impressed me a lot because the setting and the special effects are absolutely fantastic and the plot of the film made me think of our own planet.

A1-A2

1. What is your favourite film? Why?

Avatar is one of the films that impressed me a lot. I had the chance to see it in 3D and the experience was unforgettable. The film tells the story of a people trying to fight to save their planet, which is in danger of being destroyed because of some humans' greed and cruelty. The setting and the special effects are absolutely fantastic and the plot of the film made me think of our own planet. Let's hope we will have enough courage to do what's right and avoid disaster.

I like one of my classmates, Matilda. She looks so tiny and fragile, but she has the heart of a lioness and never gives up. She is short, with green eyes and brown hair. She is very sociable, reads a lot and she knows a lot of things. I enjoy being around her because she is full of energy, creative and talented.

B1

2. Describe someone you like.

I like one of my classmates, Matilda. She looks so tiny and fragile, but she has the heart of a lioness and never gives up. She is short, with green eyes and brown hair. When you see her for the first time, you might think that she is shy and nerdy. However, she is very sociable and sometimes she can talk too much. That's the thing about her, she likes stories.

She reads a lot and she knows a lot of things. I enjoy being around her because she is full of energy and creative. For the graduation celebration she collected dozens of photos and created a movie about us, our story together, as she likes to call it. It was so nice to look at those pictures. We have changed so much, we have grown up and we will all soon go our separate ways.

Matilda hopes that one day she will invite us all to see her first film. I think this is going to happen very soon because she is very talented – she will certainly be a well known film director.

**3. Give your opinion of the following statement:
A fool judges people by the presents they give him.**

Who isn't happy when he or she receives a gift? Most of the time we see a gift as a symbol of caring, a token of our appreciation and love for the recipient. In my opinion, however, gift giving has become so commercial that people tend to value the object itself more than the gesture. Presents is just a means to an end.

For one thing, presents can hide evil intentions. If you remember what happened to the Trojans who allowed the horse, sent by Odysseus, to be brought inside their city, you realise that some people offer gifts with a purpose in mind. They don't want to express their feelings for you, they want to get something from you.

Another argument is that lots of people give presents only because they see this as a duty and feel obliged to conform. For instance, how many of you haven't bought a gift just because you had to, not because you wanted to? Many of us have probably been in such a situation at least once in our lives: so that we don't seem inconsiderate we made a compromise and just bought something. The truth is that there are many other ways you can show people you care for them, other than bringing a present.

To sum up, it's not wise to treat people around you according to the gifts that you get from them. Gifts can be a proof of affection and caring, but only when they are given from the heart. Although it's always a pleasant surprise to receive something from someone, don't put too much emphasis on what you got because sometimes gifts can be deceiving.

B2 Gift giving has become so commercial that people tend to value the object itself more than the gesture.

Presents can hide evil intentions. Some people offer gifts because they want to get something from you.

Lots of people give presents only because they see this as a duty and feel obliged to conform.

Gifts can be a proof of affection and caring, but only when they are given from the heart.